

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An image processing apparatus comprising:
a filtering processor that includes a filter and switches between
a pre-filtering path and a post-filtering path;
5 a data compressor that compresses image data output from the
filtering processor;
an image data storage that stores the image data compressed;
and
a data expander that expands the image data stored, wherein
10 the pre-filtering path includes a first path sending a raw image
data to the data compressor via the filter and a second path passing the
image data expanded, and
the post-filtering path includes a third path passing the raw
image data to the data compressor and a fourth path sending the image
15 data expanded to the filter.
2. The image processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein
the data compressor irreversibly compresses the image data
output from the filtering processor.
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3. The image processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein
the filtering processor switches between the pre-filtering path and the
post-filtering path based on information of the image data.

4. The image processing apparatus according to claim 3, wherein the filtering processor switches to the pre-filtering path when a ratio of character information to the information of the image data is larger than a predetermined value.

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5. The image processing apparatus according to claim 3, wherein the filtering processor switches to the post-filtering path when a ratio of character information and picture information to the information of the image data is larger than a predetermined value.

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6. A method for filtering image data comprising:
choosing between a pre-filtering path and a post-filtering path;
filtering raw image data when the pre-filtering path is chose;
compressing the image data filtered when the pre-filtering path
15 is chose, and compressing the raw image data when the post-filtering
path is chose;

storing the image data compressed;

expanding the image data stored; and

filtering the image data expanded when the post-filtering path is

20 chose.

7. The method according to claim 6, wherein the compressing includes irreversibly compressing any one of the image data filtered and the raw image data.

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8. The method according to claim 6, wherein the choosing includes choosing between the pre-filtering path and the post-filtering path based on information of the image data.
- 5 9. The method according to claim 8, wherein the choosing includes choosing the pre-filtering path when a ratio of character information to the information of the image data is larger than a predetermined value.
- 10 10. The method according to claim 8, wherein the choosing includes choosing the post-filtering path when a ratio of character information and picture information to the information of the image data is larger than a predetermined value.